

IRW

Docket Number: 071469-0307558

Client Reference: ES-038

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re the Application of FUMIHIKO
HIGUCHI

Group Art Unit: 1765

Examiner: Kin Chan Chen

Application No.: 10/812,347

Confirmation No.: 2682

Filed: March 30, 2004

For: PROCESSING SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR TREATING A SUBSTRATE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

THIS IS NOT A RESPONSE TO THE OUTSTANDING OFFICE ACTION DATED
JANUARY 12, 2006.

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO-1449. As this application was filed after June 30, 2003, no copies of the cited U.S. references are enclosed; however, one copy of the non-patent reference is enclosed. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner return an initialed copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 to Applicants with the next Office communication to indicate that the references have been considered, per MPEP § 609.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance.

I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1).

These references were cited in an International Search Report, dated November 8, 2005, in the corresponding PCT/US2005/004037 application. No fee is required.

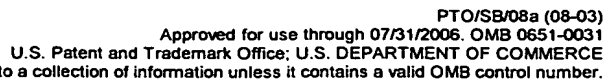
Respectfully Submitted,



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Registration Number 35914
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Date: February 8, 2006

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

Complete if Known

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

1

of

1

Application Number

10/812.347

Filing Date

03/30/2004

First Named Inventor

FUMIHIKO HIGUCHI

Art Unit

1765

Examiner Name _____

Kin Chan Chen

Attorney Docket Number

071469-0307558

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Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

**Examiner
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Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional).² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04.³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3).⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible.⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)		Complete if Known			
		Application Number	10/812,347		
		Filing Date	03/30/2004		
		First Named Inventor	FUMIHIKO HIGUCHI		
		Art Unit	1765		
		Examiner Name	Kin Chan Chen		
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	071469-0307558

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
	I	MATTHEW SENDELBACH ET AL., "Feedforward of mask open measurements on an integrated scatterometer to improve gate linewidth control", Metrology, Inspection and Process Control for Microlithography XVIII, SPIE (Bellingham, WA), vol. 5375, pp. 686-702, (2004).	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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